

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0821
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: US ARMY ALLEGEDLY CAUSES CROP DAMAGE IN EASTERN BAVARIA

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) AUGUST 29 EDITION OF
"SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG" CARRIES ARTICLE ON CROP DAMAGE
ALLEGEDLY CAUSED BY SMOKE GRENADES EMPLOYED BY US
ARMY UNIT DURING MANEUVERS NEAR SCHNAITTENBACH,
OBERPFALZ. STAATSMINISTERIUM FUER LANDESENTWICKLUNG
UND UMWELTFRAGEN (STATE MINISTRY OF COUNTRY PLANNING
AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS) ISSUED STATEMENT ON
DAMAGE, STATING THAT TESTS INDICATED NO RPT NO DANGER
TO HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH. NOTING THAT EYEWITNESSES
HAD DECLARED THE REGION RESEMBLED VIET NAM "AFTER
AN AMERICAN ATTACK," ARTICLE WENT ON TO QUOTE
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT NO RPT NO
INDICATIONS OF USE OF DEFOLIANTS HAD BEEN FOUND.

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2. AFTER TESTS OF SOIL SAMPLES, AUTHORITIES HAVE
CONCLUDED THAT INORGANIC SUBSTANCES (SULFUR,
PHOSPHORUS, CHLORINE AND ZINC COMPOUNDS) ALREADY
PRESENT WERE RELEASED BY THE USE OF THE SMOKE GRENADES,
CAUSING "CONSIDERABLE CROP DAMAGE." A PRECAUTIONARY
PROHIBITION AGAINST HARVESTING THE CROPS, WHICH WAS

ISSUED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE OF AMBERG/SULZBACH, HAS BEEN CANCELLED, BUT FARMERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT PLANTS WHICH HAD BEEN PERCEPTIBLY DAMAGED SHOULD NOT BE USED AS GREEN FODDER AND VEGATABLES AND FRUITS SHOULD BE CONSUMED ONLY AFTER THOROUGH CLEANING. (END UNCLASSIFIED

3. (BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) COMMENT: US FORCES LIAISON OFFICER FOR BAVARIA HAS ADVISED CONSULATE THAT SAME TYPE OF SMOKE GRENADE HAS BEEN IN USE IN THIS AREA FOR PAST 30 YEARS, AND HE FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE IN FACT THE CAUSE OF DAMAGE. MINISTERIAL REPORT DOES NOT LAY ANY PARTICULAR BLAME AT US DOORSTEP, AND WE WOULD NOT NORMALLY EXPECT INCIDENT TO ATTRACT ANY PARTICULAR ATTENTION. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF UPCOMING LANDTAG ELECTIONS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AT LEAST "THE GREENS," WHO DO NOT HAVE A WEALTH OF ISSUES, MIGHT FIND THIS AN ATTRACTIVE ONE. FRISBIE

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